



To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of non-profit Wagon Train Ranch & Co. and as a local resident in opposition to the proposed OHV trail expansion in the Baldy Mesa / South Phelan area.

As most people are well aware, I have been involved for quite some time with this project and have attempted to work with the local representatives of the US Forest Service in order to provide input regarding local concerns and the impacts of the proposed project upon the environment and historic and heritage resources. Unfortunately, the Forest Service has completely rejected any meaningful public input. We tried repeatedly to work with them and they refused, as documented by the results of the public input and appeals process. They refused any compromise whatsoever.

The official Forest Service website claims that "Caring for the Land and Serving the People" captures the Forest Service Mission. In this case, nothing could be further from the truth. Here, the Forest Service motto is "Show me the Money." Everything else, regardless of the negative impact on the community, the land, the environment, history, etc. is subservient to the goal of obtaining state funds from the OHV program. I ask that the State of California not reward the Forest Service for its failure to manage its own land and not allow state taxpayer funds to be squandered in such a reckless manner. Perhaps there is room at the site for a state sponsored OHV area, but it must be done with respect for the local, cultural and heritage resources.

Not only will the proposed project create a nuisance for the local community, it will also destroy local heritage. Over many centuries, the native peoples of this land have had everything taken from them. This includes their past. Right now, in the area proposed, sit many historical sites of importance. This expansion will destroy the current conditions that protect these sites. An increase in traffic will reduce soil control and increase air pollutants (including dust).. I understand a greater effort will be given by local law enforcement as part of the project, but that does not make up for what is obviously a poorly planned project.

This project sets into motion a destruction of local history. The heritage in this area is storied with hardships and peppered with horrific events. As foreign peoples came to this part of the country, many great exchanges amongst humanity were made. However, there were many encounters which ended in death. Entire tribes were lost to the onslaught of foreign technologies and ideals. The people who settled this land brought weapons and religion not seen and not understood by the local tribes. However, the Native Americans left signs of their existence and



~An Educational Non Profit 501c3 Organization~

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perseverance. The ridge where the OHV trail is proposed to extend to is one of the last places these signs can be found.

Amazingly, the Forest Service ignores these facts. The proposed west loop of the project will bisect and interrupt (twice) the historic Sanford/Mormon Wagon Trail. This must not be allowed to happen. Losing the trail means losing a part of our heritage and history forever. In addition, because of the careless planning by the Forest Service, there are very serious safety issues for non-OHV users of the area such as hikers and equestrians.

Once again, in the acts of the Forest Service, we see a people from far away forcing its will on local inhabitants. The Forest Service proposes to expand an OHV area so other people from far places can use the land and leave their imprint behind. It astonishes me in this day and age we are forced into action to stop the Federal Government. Soil control is a major fight for local residents and increasing machine travel; whose tires alone are meant to destroy the ground it uses for traction, will add a huge burden to many taxpayers. It will be up to the taxpaying community to stop pollution left behind by others using these trails. Using current trends for trails, there will be trash on the ground left behind to poison native wildlife. Additional factors include increased exhaust and dust particulates in the air left by gross polluters not allowed legally on California's roads.

Wagon Train Ranch & Company is not against Off Highway Vehicles; in fact we utilize them on a regular basis. We, as a registered 501C3 organization with the federal government, have banded together to oppose this OHV trail area extension. We believe in "Preserving the Past for the Future". This new trail system will destroy artifacts and ruins left by some of the last of Southern California's Native American tribes. Wagon Train Ranch is demanding a time extension to these plans for at least a year's time so new and better revisions can be made. There are so many important landmarks and trails that need to be preserved and enjoyed by later generations.

Thank You for your time and understanding,

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